

*For Immediate Release*

## Parole Division Works to Break Down Employment Barriers

Indianapolis, Indiana (October 3, 2008)—Employment is one of the most difficult barriers for offenders re-entering society to overcome. The Parole Division of the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has recently been working to help break down that barrier by holding local job fairs.

Parole has been partnering with local employment development organizations, employers, and educational institutions to help parolees find employment or enroll in educational courses. Of the nine Parole Districts in Indiana, four have already conducted job fairs for local parolees, probationers, and other interested parties. The remaining districts are currently planning their own job fairs in the future.



Attendees at the Gary Parole District job fair look over employment and education information.

“Having a job is a big step toward keeping offenders from returning to the Department of Correction. These job fairs are great ways for the IDOC to forge community partnerships, while helping reduce recidivism,” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

The Parole District job fairs conducted in Indianapolis, Bloomington, Fort Wayne, and Gary have attracted over 400 attendees, most who are currently on Parole. Some employers have, in fact, interviewed and offered jobs to a few attendees, and many attendees have enrolled in educational courses.



At the Indianapolis Parole District job fair, attendees anxiously await their turn to gather employment information.

Overall, the job fairs have been a large success by bringing the IDOC and community together to relay employment and educational information to those who need it most.

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